



## Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
10:00 am-11:30am

Chair, Maria Wolfe, City of Albuquerque  
Vice Chair, Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County

Commissioner Steven Michael Quezada, Bernalillo County, Commissioner Adriann Barboa, Bernalillo County, County Manager Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County, Mayor Tim Keller, City of Albuquerque, Councilor Renee Grout, City of Albuquerque, Councilor Nichole Rogers, City of Albuquerque, President Garnett S. Stokes, The University of New Mexico, Dr. Douglas M. Ziedonis, The University of New Mexico

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## Minutes

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Maria Wolfe called to order at 10:05am
- 2. Review & Approve March 12, 2024 Agenda**
  - Motion: Rodney McNease
  - Second: Lisa Hamilton
  - Approved Unanimously
- 3. Introductions and Announcements:** Members of the council & speaker s introduced themselves. There were no additional announcements.
- 4. Review & Approve February 13, 2024 Minutes**
  - Motion: Julie Morgas Baca
  - Second: Councilor Renee Grout
  - Approved Unanimously
- 5. Public Comment:**
  - No public comment notifications were received

## 6. Updates:

### Bernalillo County – County Manager Julie Morgas Baca

#### **Economic Development/Housing March 2024**

- Housing Collaborative:
  - The first meeting with Collaborative Commissioners will be on March 28<sup>th</sup> at MRCOG at 3pm
  - Collaborative Commissioners include:
    - **County Members:**
      - Serge Martinez, UNM Law School
      - Dan Majewski, Urban Land Institute
    - **City Members:**
      - Lawrence Rael
      - Talia Freedman, Real Estate Broker, Talia Freedman and Co.
    - **Board Member:**
      - The four other Commissioners will select this member.
  - Housing Collaborative successfully secured \$2,930,000 in capital outlay for the development of affordable housing projects.
  - Requesting earmark from Senator Heinrich for \$ 2 million for a 60-unit multifamily site that will provide housing to low- and moderate-income families and senior citizens. The housing project is located on Bernalillo County-owned land at 6th Street and Coal Avenue in Downtown Albuquerque.
- Later this Spring, the Economic Development Department will present two conduit financing projects for the Commission’s consideration. Both will be on the west side of Albuquerque.
- Currently preparing the evaluation process of the feasibility of utilizing Union Square as an Affordable Housing Site. One will be a rehab/new construction, and the other will be new construction of affordable housing units.
- The Bernalillo County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is winding down. As of Feb. 29, 2024, 2,847 households have been served to alleviate rent and/or utility arrears and prevent evictions, with \$15,034,925 in funds distributed to county residents through this program.

#### **BHI Housing Updates March 2024**

- Youth Transitional Living Services (YTLS)
  - 42 young people were served in January.
  - BHI staff and clinical auditor, Dr. Helen Tafoya, conducted an audit of Youth Development Inc (YDI) in February and has an upcoming audit of Serenity Mesa in April.
- Community Connections Supportive Housing (CCSH)
  - 215 individuals are actively housed and receiving services through this program.
  - BHI Evaluation provider, UNM Institute for Social Research, finalized an evaluation report for the CCSH program in January which was presented at the CCSH quarterly meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Partners from the City of Albuquerque, Crossroads for Women, UNM Hospital, ABQ Health Care for the Homeless, UNM Office of Community Health, and the Bernalillo County Housing Department were in attendance. This report can be shared upon request.
- Single Site Housing
  - There were 36 individuals housed at HopeVillage in February. There are 6 vacant units due

to recent evictions and several tenant deaths.

- The units are being repaired and ready for new residents.
- Full capacity is expected by the end of March.
- **Transitional Housing Vouchers**
  - 32 motel vouchers were issued in January by Hope Works.
    - This number is expected to increase beginning in February due to bringing on two additional providers: Enlace and First Nations.
      - Enlace will provide motel vouchers to victims of domestic violence.
    - All clients served receive case management services and are offered.
  - RRC Motel Vouchers
    - In February, RRC staff screened and provided 27 referrals for motel vouchers to contracted partner First Nations Community Healthsource, to provide help to unhoused or precariously housed clients and individuals released from the Metropolitan Detention Center.
- **Capital Contracts and One-Time Funding Contracts**
  - On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Board of County Commissioners approved \$3 million in one-time funding for the City of Albuquerque's Gateway Housing Navigation Center. The funding will be used to demolish, construct, and reconstruct an existing 17,000-square-foot suite located on the second floor adjacent to the existing Gateway Housing Navigation Center. The project will expand capacity by 50 beds, within the Gibson Health Hub. The project is anticipated to impact over 200 individuals annually.
- **Tiny Home Village (THV) Updates**
  - As of February 29th, the census was 29 residents!
    - The final home will be filled by the end of March following the completion of repairs in the last unit.
  - The County has hired a new Social Services Program Manager, Beatrice Fierro, who has extensive experience in case management, program management, and contract management.

Councilor Grout asked if the second floor of the CARES Campus is for serving the youth? County Manager Julie Morgas Baca replied that it's a partnership with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Court, Young Adult Court. That area is to house the clients for the Young Adult Court.

Councilor Grout asked if they are serving the youth yet at the CARES Campus because they thought it had opened. Pam Acosta replied that yes, it just opened. County Manager Julie Morgas Baca said that that was a brand new opening; had been delayed due to staffing shortages.

### **UNMH/HSC – Rodney McNease**

- Crises Triage Center is close to completion – BernCo has been great partner in this venture – expect to be up and running soon
- MDC/UNM have created an addiction treatment clinic – several different pieces & array of community partners to create warm-pathways for people coming out of MDC – induction at MDC, then system of care when they are released.
- Creating Bridge Clinics for the ASAP for patients with Severe Mental Illness – build a system of care for people being released from MDC going to Psychiatric Clinic – starting in July – clear pathway for SMI people to help reduce recidivism.

- Dr. Bah – Tribal students are working with HEROS and CHW – working on food security and housing security – referral networks and support systems.

### **Veteran's Affairs – Lisa Hamilton & Jill Turner**

- Lisa will continue with HCC until end of May – new person coming – unofficially and informally, an offer has been extended to Dr. Brett Weintraub – currently director of VA in Fargo North Dakota – not sure when he will arrive.
- Upcoming ability to use alternate locations for HUD VASH vouchers – expand to assisted living facilities and Group Homes – moving toward this – target is by October to be able to place veterans in facilities with a higher level of care – we see this need regularly – using institutional Medicaid for this enhancement
- Working with Housing Authorities and Landlords to develop facilities and engage them
- Will need SOAR help with this – VA doesn't have a rep and most likely won't be a position they can hire nor can they add this to an existing job description. Would love to have community partners support to assist their clientele with navigating this.

Dr. Bah – First Nations Community Health would be a great resource  
 Maria said she will check to see what we have in the COA and send you the contacts.

### **City of Albuquerque – Maria Wolfe, Homeless Innovations Officer**

- Receiving Area contract at the Gateway Center is imminent!
- Thanks to BernCo for the funding for the additional beds at the Gateway, we are now working on an additional 140 housing navigation beds. This will allow us to double the number of beds we have for women and allow us to have a housing navigation center for men as well.
- Family Housing Navigation Center – Housed over 1000 people out of that center. Thanks to BernCo, again, for the funding to create new play rooms and story time areas for the kids housed there, as well as a counseling area.
- Excited to be working on a new youth shelter, 18-24 age group, with the support of Councilor Grout. Looking at trying to have that within the next year or so. No specific dates yet.
- Work continues at the Westside Emergency Housing Center. We are still working on funding. We are also working with a lot of volunteers to get projects done there. City Council has also provided some funding to be able to work on some of the outside spaces there as well.
- Shout out to Presbyterian Hospital who has discovered that they are no longer allowed to utilize wooden furniture so they are looking to rehome a lot of good-quality pieces if your facilities need any. These are pieces from patient rooms. They donated about 35 pieces of great artwork (wooden framed) to the WEHC. Art really has the ability to humanize a space.
- We are in the midst of Contract Renewals. The RFP for the WEHC management opened. If you know of agencies that might be a good operator/management, please let them know.
- ACS is doing a Pop-Up on Central & California – an area known to be heavy with encampments. There were quite a few taking advantage of the connections to services. Shout out to UNM's Street Medicine team with Lindsay Fox for a great job in these pop-ups.
- National Alliance to end Homelessness – Jody Jepsen attended and was recognized as a major player. People across the country are recognizing that there are some good things happening here.

Councilor Grout asked if the RFP for the WEHC, does it go nationwide? Maria said that yes, it's on our website and anyone can see it. She will send the link.

Councilor Grout asked if she can be informed on how the ACS Pop-UP went. Maria indicated she will try to get info from ACS on this pilot program and get it out.

## **7. Updates Dual-Diagnosis Training Conference- Dr. Ziedonis**

Dr. Ziedonis – Shared screen to give update on the living document we went over last meeting.

- Anyone you'd want to add to target audience? Chaplains, social workers,
- 1-day event in September/October – Need a planning group including all 4 partners and community members and target audience representatives – have a planning group identified – Anami Dass – Harm Reduction Media Director – Snehal Bhatt – UNM /Addiction Psychiatry Director – adding VA representatives Dr. Henry Lim and Ms. Cynthia Brown.
- Advisory Group - Sanjeev Arora – Mauricio Tohen – Dr. Ziedonis
- Dual Diagnosis planning meeting in April – topics needing to discuss
  - a) Location – need breakout rooms – liked NHCC – estimate 300 people
  - b) not sure if we can get \$ for food and location –
  - c) Health Equity dialogue model in place –
  - d) Free locations, Parking, meals – Hybrid? Record? – difficult to have the discussion recorded? – maybe only recording the keynotes or only recording the break-outs? May have better control
  - e) Liked the agenda topics – feedback from the planning group
- BernCo can sponsor \$10,000 – County Manager Julie Morgas Baca offered to sponsor.
- Jeff Hertz – will take to Councilor Rogers
- ECHO can provide CEU credits

## **8. Update Community Solutions built for Zero Program**

Jazmin Moreno – Lead for Built for Zero

- working on the list of all providers and their expertise – approach is intended to understand strengths in the system to develop individual – Case Conferencing
- Data manager hire is close – position will be key to case conferencing. – start the case meetings in April
- Social Network Analysis – key to understand who is working together and how to build better partnering.
- working on developing new August 2025 goals for zero homeless families – first Chronically homeless families, then all families –

Jill Turner wants to help with case conferencing focusing on veterans. In the screening areas where families are identified, are we asking all if they are veteran? Jasmin replied that they are when she was with the COA but couldn't speak for all entities. Maria said that it is during HMIS intake. Jill asked to encourage veterans to contact them as the requirements have changed and there may be more that they can do for veterans now.

## **9. Subcommittee Update- Native American Homelessness – Dr. Chenoa Bah**

Dr. Bah presented

- Information on the Native American Housing Survey with MASS Design Architects – launched this month –
- Feb 13 – distributed 400 bags of “keep warm kits” jackets, sleeping bags, etc. – covered city-wide.
- UNM Cancer Center support for Native American Patients – 800 Navajo Cancer patients struggling with housing, financial and food insecurity – working with Navajo Housing Authority – Dawn Begay – If patient is part of Medicaid/Medicare, we can get them enrolled.
- Heard from Kyle Tapaha [kyle@aio.org](mailto:kyle@aio.org) – [www.nmvic.org/housing](http://www.nmvic.org/housing) - working with VIC and helping native and veterans into housing – lived experience as was a homeless veteran.
- UNM Basic Needs Grant – peer to peer training – students helping students with resources regarding food insecurity and housing
- Gallup McKinley Housing Justice – Lexington Hotel (Heading Home took over, ended in Sept and trying to save this supportive housing of 26 units). Also planning Gallup housing resource fair.
- Zuni Nation continuing to work on unsheltered Zuni in Albuquerque – going to visit – Dawn Begay working with them to find resources to help.
- Laguna Homeowners Assistance Fund Program – past due on mortgage or home repairs, open to ALL Native tribes.
- HUD – collaborative solutions: Advancing Overdose Prevention in Housing – March 27
- August RCAC Housing Counseling Summit – Salt Lake City
- Seattle – Sept 9-11- Indian Country Affordable Housing
- 988 information distributed

## **10. Announcement of the next HCC Meeting**

April 9, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- Commissioner Barboa requested the HCC have a presentation from UNM on the “Comprehensive Substance Use working group” at a future meeting. Dr. Ziedonis clarified that the UNM Regents asked for a presentation on what UNM can do to assist with Substance Use issues in the community. He suggested the presentation should be adjusted to focus on Unhoused Substance Use. He and Rodney McNease agreed to present at the May 14 meeting. All partners of the HCC are encouraged to consider what they can do for the discussion to follow.

## **11. Adjourn Meeting – Maria Adjourned at 11:28am**